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[1951-55]

RCM LONDON

Society of Women Musicians

(INCORPORATED)

Office : CRAMER'S 139 NEW BOND STREET, W. 1

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MISS OLIVE GIDDINGS

Organising Secretary

MISS ALICE MARTIN

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THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN MUSICIANS was founded in 1911 by MARION SCOTT and GERTRUDE EATON with the object of forming a representative body which could act where the interests of women in music were concerned. As far as can be ascertained, it has no counterpart in any other country.

During the forty years of its work it has repeatedly taken action on behalf of the position of women in musical life, *e.g.*, as orchestral players, examiners, conductors, etc., and, in advising its members in all kinds of difficulties, it has built up a reputation for disinterested influence and sound judgment.

At the time of its foundation, there was very little encouragement for women's work in composition or conducting, and, by its annual Composers' Conferences and classes in conducting, much was done in the first twenty-five years of the Society's life to further the development of women in both these directions.

By its musical programmes, composers and executants have been brought into touch with each other and early publicity has been afforded to works approved by the Composers' Adjudicatory Committee. On the social side, the friendships formed between artists as the result of membership and the contacts established with audiences must be reckoned among the most valuable results of the Society's existence.

With the magnificent background of the stately house and Great Drawing Room at 4, St. James's Square, for the use of which the Society is greatly indebted to the kindness of the Arts Council, our monthly Fixtures there are now established as events of real importance.

ADMINISTRATION

The affairs of the Society are administered by a Council, the members of which serve for three years. The President, Chairman, and the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer are elected annually.

Membership. Membership is open to women artists in all branches of music, also to amateur musicians; men are eligible as Associates. Students under the age of 25 years are admitted to membership at a specially reduced fee (see below)
All must be proposed and seconded by members.

Annual Subscription.

Professional Women Musicians, £1 11*s.* 6*d.*
Amateurs, £2 2*s.* 0*d*
Country Members, £1 1*s* 0*d.*
Student Members, 15*s.*
Associates (Men), £1 1*s.* 0*d.*

These Annual Subscriptions, payable on 1st January or 1st July, entitle the Member or Associate to attend all Fixtures.

The Free Liza Lehmann Membership (founded in memory of the Society's First President) is granted at the discretion of the Council to young members.

Members wishing to resign are expected to send notice of resignation **not less than one month before the date for the renewal of the subscription,** otherwise they are liable for the amount due.

Concerts and Meetings. The Society holds not less than twelve meetings a year, which take the form of concerts, lectures and recitals by members and distinguished guest-artists These are held on either Saturday afternoons or week-day evenings in the Great Drawing Room at 4, St. James's Square, S.W. 1, by kind permission of the Arts Council of Great Britain.

Young Members' Concerts, which have already proved helpful to those who need platform experience, are arranged from time to time.

Guests. Members may bring as many guests as they like to any concert, the programme for each guest being 1*s.* 6*d.*

Tea or Refreshments at a moderate charge are provided after the concerts, thus giving an opportunity for meeting and conversation among members and guests.

The concerts are advertised in the Press, and Music Critics are invited.

Auditions. These are held at regular intervals and any performing member whose work is not known to the Council can be heard by a panel of experts. A written report is made upon each performer, which will be communicated to her on request to the Organising Secretary. These reports are confidential, constructive and helpful to the aspiring public performer. Auditions are entirely voluntary and must be applied for, and are only given to artists who are already members of the Society.

Through the kindness of several members the Council is able to offer facilities, in various parts of London, for young artists to go through their programmes, prior to public recitals. The Secretary will be glad to give particulars.

Composers and Composition Prizes. Members are invited every year to submit compositions to the Composers' Committee, who from these works recommend those which they consider suitable for performance at the Society's concerts

Two Prizes for Composition are offered in alternate years, the Elsie Horne and W. W. Cobbett Memorial Prizes, each £20.

Competitors must be members of the Society of Women Musicians. Particulars can be obtained from the Organising Secretary and also appear in the Musical Press.

The Libraries. The Cobbett Free Lending Library, containing over 250 examples of British Chamber Music from the 16th Century to the present year was presented by Mr. W. W. Cobbett to the Society. It is open to the public as well as to members, and music can be borrowed on a deposit on application to the Librarian at Cramer's, during term time (from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. except Saturday). Music can be obtained by correspondence.

The Society also has a General Library of music and books from which members may borrow

W.P.S., Brick Street, Piccadilly, W.1